

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A spinal fixation plate comprising:
 a first section having at least one bore formed therein for receiving a bone anchor effective to mate the first section to a first vertebra; and
 a second section having at least one bore formed therein for receiving a bone anchor effective to mate the second section to a second vertebra, at least one of the first section and the second section having a canted section oriented at a cant angle to at least one other section of the at least one of the first section and the second section, the cant angle being selected to correspond to a geometry of at least one of the first vertebra and the second vertebra, at least one of the second section and the first section being adjustable along a longitudinal axis of the plate with respect to the other section.
2. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 1, wherein the cant angle is less than approximately 20°.
3. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 1, wherein the cant angle is less than approximately 10°.
4. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 1, wherein the canted section is at an end of the at least one of the first section and the second section.
5. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 4, wherein the canted section is at an end of the first section that is spaced apart along a longitudinal axis of the plate to an end of the second section.

6. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 5, wherein the second section includes a second canted section at the end of the second section.

7. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 5, wherein the cant angle of the canted section is less than approximately 20° and the cant angle of the second canted section is less than approximately 20° .

8. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 5, wherein the cant angle of the canted section is approximately equal to the cant angle of the second canted section.

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) The spinal fixation plate of claim [[9]]1, further comprising a dynamic connection mechanism configured to control relative motion of the second section and the first section, the dynamic connection mechanism comprising a longitudinally oriented slot formed in the first section and a pin fixed to the second section and sized to slidably engage the slot formed in the first section.

11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 1, wherein the at least one bore of the first section and the at least one bore of the second section are positioned at opposing ends of the spinal fixation plate and the at least one bore of the first section has a first bore axis and the at least one bore of the second section has a second bore axis.

13. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 12, wherein the first bore axis and the second bore axis intersect at point on a side of the spinal fixation plate distal to the first and second vertebrae.

14. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 12, wherein the first bore axis and the second bore axis intersect at point on a side of the spinal fixation plate proximal to the first and second vertebrae.

15. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 12, wherein at least one of the first bore axis and the second bore axis is oriented at an angle other than perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of a section of a respective one of the second section and the first section.

16. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 15, wherein the angle of the at least one of the first bore axis and the second bore axis is greater than 70° with respect to a longitudinal axis of a section of a respective one of the second section and the first section.

17. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 12, wherein the first bore axis and the second bore axis are parallel to one another and oriented at an angle other than perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the plate.

18. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 12, further comprising a polyaxial bushing mounted in at least one bore, the polyaxial bushing configured to permit polyaxial rotation of the bushing within the at least one bore.

19. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 1, further comprising at least one opening formed in the plate to permit visualization of a graft positioned between the vertebrae.

20. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 1, further comprising at least one intermediate section positioned between the first section and the second section, the at least one intermediate section having at least one bore formed therein for receiving a bone anchor effective to mate the at least one intermediate section to a vertebra between the first vertebra and the second vertebra.

21. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 1, further comprising at least one fin projecting from a surface of the plate proximal to a vertebrae to facilitate positioning of the plate relative to a vertebra.

22.(currently amended) A spinal fixation plate having a longitudinal axis, the plate comprising:

a first section having at least one bore formed therein for receiving a bone anchor effective to mate the first section to a first vertebra, the first section having a first canted section oriented at a cant angle to the longitudinal axis of the plate; and

a second section having at least one bore formed therein for receiving a bone anchor effective to mate the second section to a second vertebra, the second section having a second canted section positioned distal to the first canted section along the longitudinal axis of the plate and oriented at the cant angle to the longitudinal axis of the plate, the cant angle being selected to correspond to a geometry of the first and second vertebrae and thereby facilitate mating of the plate to the first and second vertebrae; and

at least one of the first section and the second section is adjustable along a longitudinal axis of the plate with respect to the other section.

23. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 22, wherein the cant angle is less than approximately 20°.

24. (cancelled)

25. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 22, further comprising a polyaxial bushing mounted in at least one bore, the polyaxial bushing configured to permit polyaxial rotation of the bushing within the at least one bore.

26. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 22, further comprising at least one opening formed in the plate to permit visualization of a graft positioned between the vertebrae.

27. (previously presented) A spinal fixation plate having a longitudinal axis, the spinal fixation plate comprising:

a first section having at least one bore formed therein for receiving a bone anchor effective to mate the first section to a first vertebra;

a second section having at least one bore formed therein for receiving a bone anchor effective to mate the second section to a second vertebra, at least one of the second section and the first section being adjustable with respect to the other section along a longitudinal axis of the plate; and

a polyaxial bushing mounted in at least one bore, the polyaxial bushing configured to permit polyaxial rotation of the bushing within the at least one bore.

28. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 27, further comprising a dynamic connection mechanism configured to control relative motion of the second section and the first section, the dynamic connection mechanism comprising a longitudinally oriented slot formed in the first section and a pin fixed to the second section and sized to slidably engage the slot formed in the first section.

29. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 27, wherein the at least one bore of the first section and the at least one bore of the second section are positioned at opposing ends of the spinal fixation plate and the at least one bore of the first section has a first bore axis and the at least one bore of the second section has a second bore axis that intersects the first bore axis on a side of the spinal fixation plate distal to the first and second vertebrae.

30. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 27, wherein the polyaxial bushing has a slot formed therein to permit radial expansion of the bushing.

31. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 27, wherein the polyaxial bushing has a plurality of ridges formed on a radially outer surface of the bushing.

32. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 31, wherein the radially outer surface of the bushing is generally spherical in shape.

33. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 31, wherein a radially interior surface of the polyaxial bushing defines a passage for receiving a bone anchor, the passage tapering from a distal end of the bushing to a proximal end of the bushing.

34. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 31, wherein the polyaxial bushing has a generally smooth radially interior surface that defines a passage for receiving a bone anchor.

35. (currently amended) A spinal fixation plate having a longitudinal axis, the spinal fixation plate comprising:

a first section having at least one bore formed therein for receiving a bone anchor effective to mate the first section to a first vertebra, the at least one bore of the first section having a first bore axis; and

a second section having at least one bore formed therein for receiving a bone anchor effective to mate the second section to a second vertebra, the at least one bore of the second section having a second bore axis that intersects the first bore axis on a side of the spinal fixation plate distal to the first and second vertebra and at least one of the second section and the first section being adjustable with respect to the other section along a longitudinal axis of the plate.

36. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 35, wherein the at least one bore of the first section is positioned proximate an end on the spinal fixation plate and the at least one bore of the second section is positioned proximate the other end of the spinal fixation plate.

37. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 35, wherein at least one of the first bore axis and the second bore axis is oriented at an angle other than perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the spinal fixation plate.

38. (previously presented) The spinal fixation plate of claim 37, wherein the angle of the at least one of the first bore axis and the second bore axis is greater than 70° with respect to the longitudinal axis of the spinal fixation plate.

39. (new) A spinal fixation plate comprising:

a first section having at least one bore formed therein for receiving a bone anchor effective to mate the first section to a first vertebra;

a second section having at least one bore formed therein for receiving a bone anchor effective to mate the second section to a second vertebra, at least one of the first section and the second section having a canted section oriented at a cant angle to at least one other section of the at least one of the first section and the second section, the cant angle being selected to correspond to a geometry of at least one of the first vertebra and the second vertebra; and

at least one opening formed in the plate between lateral side edges of the plate and between the first and second section to permit visualization of a graft positioned between the vertebrae.

40. (new) The spinal fixation plate of claim 39, wherein the opening is formed between the bore in the first section and the bore in the second section.